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February 04, 2006 04:12 AM

Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street ■ 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Dear Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Study for the South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP).

I am concerned that at a time when the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem is collapsing and some fish populations are in danger of extinction, a plan is being considered that would significantly increase the amount of fresh water diverted out of the San Francisco Bay-Delta. The exact causes for the fish declines are still being investigated, but Delta pumping is one of the primary culprits. I urge you to withdraw the draft until the causes of the decline are identified and resolved.

In addition, a revised Environmental Impact Report/Study should be drafted that includes all reasonable alternatives, such as a significant reduction in Delta pumping from current levels. A reduction would allow the Bay-Delta ecosystem to be restored

The California State Water Plan has clearly shown that the state can meet current and future water demand without increasing pumping if investments are made in urban and agricultural water conservation and reclamation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Michael Barrows